

## Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, EAID, ACC, CPC

SUBJECT: JOINT MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC) AND COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) - JULY 3 AND 4

1. JOINT ACC/CPC MEETING HAD TWO ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA (E/1978/109): (A) LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES - REPORT OF THE ACC (E/1978/43/ADD.1) AND EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE CPC ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS 18TH SESSION (E/1978/L.31); AND (B) ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS PREPARED BY ACC (E/AC.51/90/ADD.1, PARTS I AND II). ITEM (B) HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE CPC DURING THE FIRST PART OF ITS 18TH SESSION BECAUSE OF THE TARDY ISSUANCE OF THE ACC ANALYSIS, A SITUATION WHICH WAS CRITIZED BY THE CPC CHAIRMAN (HANSEN) WHEN THE JOINT MEETING TOOK UP THE ITEM. BELGIUM WENT FURTHER AND VOICED ITS OBJECTION TO HAVING ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF AN ACC/CPC MEETING WHICH THE CPC HAD NOT FIRST CONSIDERED IN ITS OWN MEETINGS.

2. LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES: (A) THE FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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POINTS EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSION (I) THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE MANDATE WHICH THE ACC HAS ESTABLISHED FOR ITS TASK FORCE ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES; (II) THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND OF THE TASK FORCE WERE EMPHASIZED, WITH THE FORMER REGARDED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFINING OBJECTIVES AND GOALS, ALONG WITH APPROPRIATE POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR

ACHIEVING THEM AND THE LATTER TO ENGAGE IN TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, IDENTIFICATION OF INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG DEFINED OBJECTIVES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS AND COMPATABILITY , AND THE HARMONIZATION OF THE WORK OF VARIOUS UN AGENCIES IN RESPECT OF ECONOMETRIC MODELS RELATING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF INTEREST; (III) THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT AGENCY STUDIES SHOULD AVOID "ACADEMIC FUTUROLOGY" ALTHOUGH THERE WAS RECOGNITION THAT VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS REQUIRED CONSIDERATION AND ACTION IN TIME FRAMES EVEN EXCEEDING TEN YEARS. (B) A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION DEVELOPED WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERRELATED QUESTIONS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A NIEO, AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF SATISFYING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (BHN) IN THIS CONTEXT. OR EXAMPLE, PAKISTAN EXPOUNDED IN SOME DETAIL REASONS WHY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD HARBORED VARIOUS SUSPICIONS IN THE FACE OF INCREASING EMPHASIS BY SOME COUNTRIES ON THE NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SATISFYING BHNS IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY. THESE INCLUDED (A) A TENDENCY TO OVERSLOGANIZE THE PHRASE RATHER THAN CAREFULLY DEFINE WHAT IS MEANT BY IT TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES; (B) THE FEAR THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE NEED TO ENGAGE IN A BROAD NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND TO WORK TOWARD A NIEO OF THE KIND SKETCHED OUT IN PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; (C) THE SUSPICION THAT EMPHASIS ON BHN WAS INTENDED TO OBSCURE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LDCS AND PARTICULARLY TO PREVENT A BUILD-UP OF HEAVY INDUSTRY; (D) APPREHENSION THAT TALK ABOUT BHN PRESAGED AN ATTEMPT AT GREATER INTERVENTION BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; (E) THE FEELING THAT THE BHN APPROACH WAS VIEWED AS A CHEAPER OPTION BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS AGAINST, FOR EXAMPLE, WORKING TO MEET ODA TARGETS ESTABLISHED BY ACTIONS OF UN BODIES; (F) THE FEAR THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO PLACE LIMITS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD ASPIRE TO BROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR STANDARDS OF LIVING. VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRY SPEAKERS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN, DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT THEY WERE REASSURED BY AND "SAW MERIT" IN VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF HOW THEY SAW CONCERN WITH BHN FITTING INTO THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, PARTICULARLY IF THE CONCEPT INCLUDES ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GREATER EMPLOYMENT. JAMAICA O (MILLS), ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF BHN, ARGUED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS MUST BE VIEWED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON TWO LEVELS: (1) THE PURSUIT OF GREATER EQUITY AMONG NATIONS WITH A CONSEQUENT GREATER ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND (2) THE

ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER EQUITY WITHIN COUNTRIES. PURELY INTERNAL CONCERNS RE BHN COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PURSUIT OF INTERNATIONAL EQUITY. NEITHER COULD THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE REQUIRED TO PUT SATISFACTION OF BHN AHEAD OF GENERAL INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE FLAVOR OF AGENCY COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT WAS REFLECTED IN THE REMARKS BY THE ILO AND NIDO, WITH THE FORMER ARGUING THAT BHN WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STRATEGY OF MEETING SOCIAL NEEDS AND COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS NOR COULD BHN BE SATISFIED WITHOUT THE CREATION OF JOBS. THE LATTER ASSERTED THAT BHN COULD BE SATISFIED ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC, INCLUD-

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ING INDUSTRIAL, GROWTH. AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRY SPEAKERS, FRANCE AGREED THAT THE LINKS AMONG ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND THE SATISFACTION OF BHN HAD TO BE KEPT IN MIND. BHN WAS NOT VIEWED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO AN EVOLVING NIEO BUT WAS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF IT. SO FAR AS FRANCE WAS CONCERNED, MEETING BHN WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN EXCUSE FOR REDUCING FOREIGN AID NOR A BASIS FOR INTERFERING WITH INTERNAL SOVEREIGNTY NOR TO FAVOR AGRICULTURE TO THE DETRIMENT OF INDUSTRY. THE US, IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT THAT SOME BETTER DESCRIPTIVE PHRASE WAS REQUIRED, SUGGESTED THAT MEMBER STATES THINK IN TERMS OF "HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT". THE US STATEMENT ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE SATISFACTION OF BHN HAD TO BE APPROACHED IN A WIDE CONTEXT OF GROWTH AND OBJECTIVES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT ALSO APPRECIATED THE DOUBLE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LDCS DESCRIBED BY JAMAICA AND THE LINK BETWEEN ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

ASPECTS. AS FOR THE NOTION THAT NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY WAS IMPINGED UPON WHEN ATTENTION TO BHN WAS URGED, THE US STATEMENT SUGGESTED THAT THE REALITY OF GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE CARRIED WITH IT THE INEVITABLE COROLLARY OF DIMINISHED FREEDOM TO EXERCISE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND THE NEED FOR BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOGNIZE SUCH CONSTRAINT. THE NEW UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ARGUED THAT IT MUST BE ASSUMED MOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE AS AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE THE SATISFACTION OF ELEMENTAL HUMAN NEEDS AND THAT DIFFERENCES EXIST ONLY IN RESPECT OF THE TIME HORIZONS WITHIN WHICH THIS OBJECTIVE IS APPROACHED. THE MODALITIES OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE ROAD CHOSEN LEAD TO SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH - THIS SHOULD BE THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (C) ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, JAPAN NOTED THAT THE IDS FOR DD-II WAS BASED ON AN IMPORTANT ASSUMPTION: THAT STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH WOULD CONTINUE IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE THIRD WORLD. THIS BASIC ASSUMPTION LOST ITS VALIDITY IN 1974 BUT REVIEW AND APPRAISAL CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED GOALS AND TARGETS. IF GOALS AND TARGETS ARE TO BE PART OF ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THESE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND RELEVANT TO UNEXPECTED CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. JAPANESE POINT OF NOT LOSING SIGHT OF THE ASSUMPTIONS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH GOALS AND TARGETS MIGHT BE REGARDED AS ACHIEVABLE WAS ENDORSED BY THE S. (D) THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE RESPECTIVE IMPORTANCE IN AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF IDENTIFYING APPROPRIATE POLICIES CONDUCIVE TO GLOBAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AS AGAINST DEFINING QUANTITATIVE GOALS AND TARGETS WITH US RIPERT TENDING TO EMPHASIZE THE FORMER AND INDIA STRESSING THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL ROLE OF AGREED TARGETS. FINALLY, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND ITS EVOLUTION COULD NOT BE REFLECTED IN OR FITTED INTO THE STRAIT JACKET OF A SINGLE, SIMPLIFIED ECONOMETRIC MODEL.

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3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE DISCUSSION UNDER THIS ITEM WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF. THE CPC CHAIRMAN (HANSEN), NOTING THAT THE CPC HAD NOT BEEN

TOO CLEAR ON WHAT IT WANTED FROM THE ACC BY WAY OF CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THIS SUBJECT, HAD RECEIVED AS A RESULT WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY ONLY A COMPENDIUM OF UN AGENCY ACTION IN THIS FIELD. HE NOTED THAT A MAIN WEAKNESS OF THE REPORT BEFORE ACC/CPC WAS A LACK OF DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF WHAT ECDL WAS ALL ABOUT. USG RIPERT ON THIS POINT NOTED THAT A TRUE CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS WOULD REQUIRE ENORMOUS RESOURCES OF THE SECRETARIAT AND WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ON A SERIES OF NARROW SECTORAL BASES. STATEMENTS BY CPC PARTICIPANTS WERE LARGEY FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH BROADLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECDC. VARIOUS AGENCY HEADS, PARTICULARLY THE SYG OF UNCTAD, SUPPLEMENTED THE DOCUMENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. THE CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING THE CPC MUST BETTER DELINEATE THE SUBJECT MATTER WHICH IT WISHES COVERED IN FURTHER CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS. VN DEN HEUVEL

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